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28 December 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: SAM Search Procedures for IDEALIST Missions

1.   On 17 December at 1000 hours [   ] 25X1
[   ] from NPIC conducted a briefing for General Ledford and
his Staff, OSA, at Langley Headquarters concerning the procedures
utilized for IDEALIST pre-mission SAM searches. [   ] stated   25X1
that the Director, NPIC requested the opportunity to present such a
briefing in order to clarify the procedures followed by NPIC.

2.   It was pointed out that the pre-mission track was acquired
from OSA by Operations Staff, NPIC liaison representatives and carried
to the Center to initiate search procedures at the time of the mission
plan briefing before each mission is accomplished.

3.   Immediately following the mission plan briefing OSA dispatches
the [   ] cable to NPIC which delineates the responsibility of a
30 nautical mile search for SAMs on either side of the planned track
and also indicates turn points in the mission. NPIC procedure upon
receipt is to apply the mission track to a comprehensive photo coverage
map which indicates the most recent clear photographic coverage of the
area from all type missions received, both satellite and aircraft. At
this time all known SAM sites that are applicable are plotted to the
mission track and a review of the readout of the previous missions con-
ducted to ascertain if any new SAM sites have been located along the
area of responsibility. After compiling this information the [   ]   25X1
[   ] is prepared and returned to OSA along with an overlay indicating
SAMs found and clear photography searched on the part of NPIC.

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4.   In order to accomplish this clear photography map overlay compiled by NPIC, the following procedures are followed. Upon receipt of a satellite or aircraft type mission the mission is exploited against COMOR targets initially. Upon completion of the first phase readout, resulting in either an OAK or IPIR, a search is conducted specifically for SAM sites to include all coverage of China on a particular mission. Subsequent to this a mission index is initiated wherein all photography is scanned and every target found exposed on the imagery on a given mission is catalogued. Upon completion of these searches the clear photography which falls within the area of operation of the IDEALIST missions, principally south of 30 degrees in China, is plotted on a map indicating the area covered, mission number and date of the mission.

5.   This information is kept current and applied to the basic map as new missions are received thus enabling NPIC to up-date their map. It was emphasized that prior to the posting to the map a minimum of two searches of the photography, one of which is a scan and the other a detailed SAM search is conducted by NPIC personnel. This is during the normal OAK or IPIR procedures by defensive missile specialists in the PAG area.

6.   Subsequent to the briefing, General Ledford asked of the briefers whether or not any new SAM sites had been found as a direct result of this pre-mission search requirement after receipt of the plan track prior to flight. It was pointed out that no sites had been discovered at this particular point in the procedure but that several sites had been found as a result of the requirement to conduct this detailed search for SAMs in support of this pre-mission search. General Ledford expressed his appreciation for the magnitude of the effort and manner in which the searches were conducted. He indicated that he was satisfied as a result of this effort and the support of his operations on the part of NPIC. The briefing was concluded at approximately 1125.

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7. It was pointed out at the conclusion of the briefing that the same procedures followed for IDEALIST missions would be followed for support of OXCART missions. General Ledford indicated his approval of this plan.

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Deputy Assistant for Operations, NPIC

CONCURRENCES:

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BRIGADIER GENERAL JACK C. LEDFORD
Director of Office of Special Activities

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Date

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ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL
Director, National Photographic
Interpretation Center

29 DEC 1965
Date

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